

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185008

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, BT

SUBJECT: BHUTANESE STUDENT PROGRAM

REFS: (A) NEW DELHI 10430; (B) STATE 179920

FOR KREISBERG FROM KUX

1. WE REMAIN CONCERNED THAT NOMINATIONS OF APPARENTLY SECOND-RATE (OR PERHAPS THIRD-RATE) STUDENTS ARE NOT IN BEST INTEREST OF USG OR BHUTAN SINCE THEIR POSSIBLE LACK OF SUCCESS HERE WOULD JEOPARDIZE ENTIRE BHUTANESE STUDENT PROGRAM. AS YOU KNOW, BHUTANESE PROGRAM COMPETES WITH OTHERS FOR LIMITED FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR USG FOREIGN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS. WE ALSO QUESTION DESIRABILITY OF DESIGNATING BOTH SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS IN SAME FIELD OF STUDY SINCE PROGRAM IS SO SMALL.

2. AT SAME TIME WE RECOGNIZE BHUTANESE MAY HAVE SET PRIORITIES FOR FOREIGN TRAINING TO MEET MANPOWER PLAN REQUIREMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND ALSO THAT LITTLE GUIDANCE WAS PROVIDED THEM ON SELECTION OF NOMINEES. WE BELIEVE OUR POINTS IN PARA 1 COULD BE MADE BY TELLING BHUTANESE WE WILL TRY TO PLACE ONE OF THEIR NOMINEES BUT BECAUSE CONFIDENTIAL

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OF PROBLEMS WE HAVE PREFER THEY NOMINATE A NEW CANDIDATE

WITH BETTER QUALIFICATIONS IN ANOTHER FIELD FOR SECOND SLOT. PERHAPS THEY MIGHT WISH DESIGNATE ONE OF THE TWO ENGINEERING STUDENTS MENTIONED REF A.

3. IIE WILL ATTEMPT PLACE EITHER OR BOTH ENGINEERING STUDENTS ONLY IF GOB PAYS ALL U.S. COSTS. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF GOB WILLING TO DO SO AND WE WILL ASK IIE TO DO NEEDFUL, BUT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION AT THIS LATE DATE OR WITHOUT COMPLETE ACADEMIC RECORDS.
(ESTIMATED COSTS: AVERAGE COST PER STUDENT PER ACADEMIC YEAR-DOLS 5500 PLUS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS; IF SUMMER INCLUDED-DOLS. 1000 ADDITIONAL; IF ENGLISH INSTRUCTION REQUIRED-DOLS. 365 MAINTENANCE PER STUDENT PER MONTH IF INSTRUCTION CAN BE ARRANGED UNDER AID/CU CONTRACT WITH GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY PROVIDING FOR TUITION WAIVER (PROBABLY 3-4 MONTHS INTENSIVE LANGUAGE TRAINING WOULD BE NECESSARY); PLACEMENT SERVICE- DOLS. 400 PER STUDENT MINIMUM BUT COULD BE HIGHER DEPENDING ON WORK INVOLVED. IIE WOULD ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH GOB, AND BECAUSE OF COSTS AND WORK INVOLVED PREFERS THAT MORE THAN ONE STUDENT BE INCLUDED.) KISSINGER

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